

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
Open Space Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Kit Gordon called the meeting to order at 9:05

- a. Roll call: members present: Kit Gordon, Richard Contreras, Peter Brown, George, Clifford, Jean Struthers, Anita Baldwin. Absent: Wendie Ward, Viggie Mokkarala. Others present: Lisa Schmidt, Council liaison; Sofia Mangalam, Planning Director; Elaine Ling, Planner. Others: Carol Gottlieb, Sue Welch, Rosemarie Nahm
- b. July 19, 2022 Minutes accepted as amended: to put OSC property review recommendations in the minutes.
- c. Acceptance of Native Plant tour meeting – not discussed.

2. Announcements

- a. Kit Gordon proposed naming a Byrne Preserve pathway after Art Lachenbruch.

3. Planning

- a. Planning site reviews
 - 1. 23500 Camino Hermosa (new residence, attached garage and cabana). No discussion.
 - 2. 27360 Elena Road.
PB moved to accept the recommendations, seconded by RC and unanimously approved.

OSC recommendations:

- 1. Request copy of Murray Engineering Geotechnical Report of 2004 and Cotton Shires comment letter to that report.
- 2. Recommend planning commission review this development proposal.
- 3. Recommend relocating parking pad away from swale per LAH general plan policies to protect swales and natural waterways. Perhaps request variance on setback to move parking pad W of proposed location or push developed area further E into property.
- 4. Determine if permit is required from resource agencies for driveway to traverse swale/stream.
- 5. Show landslides and swale on plan.
- 6. Correct geotech report which shows old location of leach field abutting swale.
- 7. Protect swale and willow trees during construction.
- 8. Require dedication of Open Space Easement on swale (with provision

for driveway) and slope greater than 30% as per Land Use Element 2.5. See attached diagram.

9. Wildlife friendly fencing or no fencing along proposed open space easement to allow wildlife movement through OSE

3. 25215 La Loma Drive – RC presented his report. No major issues with this land.
PB moved to accept the recommendations as amended and KG seconded. Unanimously approved by committee.

OSC Recommendations:

1. Remove palm trees.
2. Remove stinkwort.
3. Landscape with mostly native plants. A list of plants native to this region can be found at calscape.org.
4. Allow for wildlife movement by minimizing wildlife-excluding fencing (use split rail).
5. To control weeds on fallow land, consider mowing rather than tilling.

4. 12355 Hilltop Drive – reviewed by EDPC. No recommendations re the OSE; there is a swale along the edge of the property.

b. Recent ADU Applications – none discussed

c. Fence Permit Reviews

28001 Elena Road (Fenwick property) – no updates

d. Fast track meeting recaps

1. 7/19 – RC reported there were no issues.
2. 7/26 and 8/2 – AB reported on 26880 Ortega Drive. There are vineyard and fence issues by the creek
3. 8/9 – 26685 Purissima Road – screening issues, EDPC recommended only.
4. 8/16 – GC reported no discussion needed.
5. 8/23 – AB reported. 12187 Kate Drive. CG reported on the issue of Hale Creek and how the water could be diverted; issues with valves that go back several decades. KG said she'd follow up with Oscar.
6. 8/30 – 27385 Deer Springs Way. No discussion

7. 9/6 and 9/13 – cancelled.

4. New

a. Planning director Mangalam and Planner Ling

1. Update on SB 9. Elaine gave an update on 3 SB9 projects.
2. Sofia explained the process to change open space easements. The committee asked if planning commission could be an additional step in the process to change open space easements.
3. Sofia said committee reports are now uploaded to eTrak-it. Availability of electronic copies of site development plans depend on applicant.

b. Planting acorns this winter. Sue Welch reports she has about 600 Valley Oak acorns for people to plant, and they should email her if they want some.

c. Adopt a Highway: KG will look into what it takes to adopt a highway.

d. Creek protection in town: Ongoing education.

e. Weed management and identification; KG and JS will use existing documents to create invasive plant guide for residents.

5. Continuing Business

a. Stinkwort update: GC collected all the information about stinkwort sites sent him, and forwarded to Oscar. KG noted that there is a Condition of Approval (COA) that stinkwort be eradicated at construction sites by 10/1 and will remind staff.

b. KG and Sarah Rubustelli will discuss more signs at Byrne Preserve entrances with rules for use of the preserve.

c. Artificial turf: PB says that EDPC agrees with OSC about artificial turf (not generally in favor) and there needs to be education on it. KG will ask planning staff to include Valley Water's fact sheet on artificial turf to residents with artificial turf plans.

d. Discussion about Deer Springs ADU, GC notes that it may be coming up for review soon.

e. PB says that the EIC spoke to the EDPC. He summarized the discussion on water conservation.

f. Fence ordinance meeting with consultant was postpone.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 an,